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Title: Local grape growers tops in the state

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Lead:

No county in the state grows more grapes than Washington County, and according to The Kentucky Wine and Vine Festival, no grower does it better than Jimmy and Sherry

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No county in the state grows more grapes than Washington County, and according to The Kentucky Wine and Vine Festival, no grower does it better than Jimmy and Sherry Hatchett.

The Hatchetts own Simple Pleasures Vineyard on Beechland Road in Springfield, and last week they were honored as the 2006 Grape Grower of the Year in Kentucky, based on 2005 to present production.

The Hatchetts began growing grapes in 2001, planting around 1,800 to 2,000 vines, according to Terry Hatchett.

"At present, we're selling the majority of our grapes to Talon Winery in Lexington," he said. "I talked to the wine maker just this morning, and he congratulated me on us winning grower of the year."

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